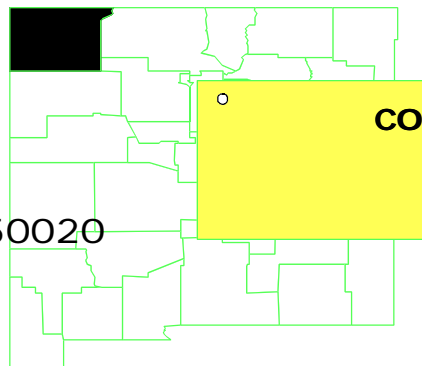


LEE ACRES LANDFILL (USDOJ) NEW MEXICO

EPA ID# NMD980750020



EPA REGION 6
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 03

San Juan County
Farmington

Updated: 03/31/00

Site Description:

Location: ! 4.5 miles east of Farmington in San Juan County.
! Public land under the authority of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Department of the Interior (DOI).

Population: ! In 1990 San Juan County had a population of about 100,000 people, Farmington 33,997 persons, and the Lee Acres Superfund Site approximately 600 individuals. At one time, approximately 165 single family residences used shallow alluvial ground water for washing and irrigation. They are now using bottled water.
! 561 people live within a 3 mile radius.

Setting: This is a Federal Facility - Department of Interior/Bureau of Land Management
! The Lee Acres Superfund Site consists of a 60-acre closed landfill. There is an abandoned refinery and a residential subdivision 2,200 feet south of the site.
! The landfill was acquired by San Juan County in 1962 through a lease agreement with BLM for a municipal landfill consisting of solid waste trenches.
! In 1978 San Juan County began to accept liquid wastes for disposal in three unlined waste lagoons. The wastes were primarily from oil field operations.
! BLM instructed San Juan County to close landfill in September 1985. BLM resumed unrestricted ownership in 1990.
! 134.68 acres of public lands were withdrawn from surface entry and mining according to Federal Register: January 15, 1997, Number 10, Page 2177.

Hydrology: ! Two aquifers are present. The alluvial aquifer at 20-50 feet and the Bedrock aquifer at 50-80 feet. Only the alluvial aquifer is contaminated.

Wastes and Volumes

PRINCIPAL POLLUTANTS:

- ! 1,1 dichloroethane
- ! 1,1,1 - trichloroethane
- ! 1,2 - dichloroethylene
- ! benzene
- ! manganese

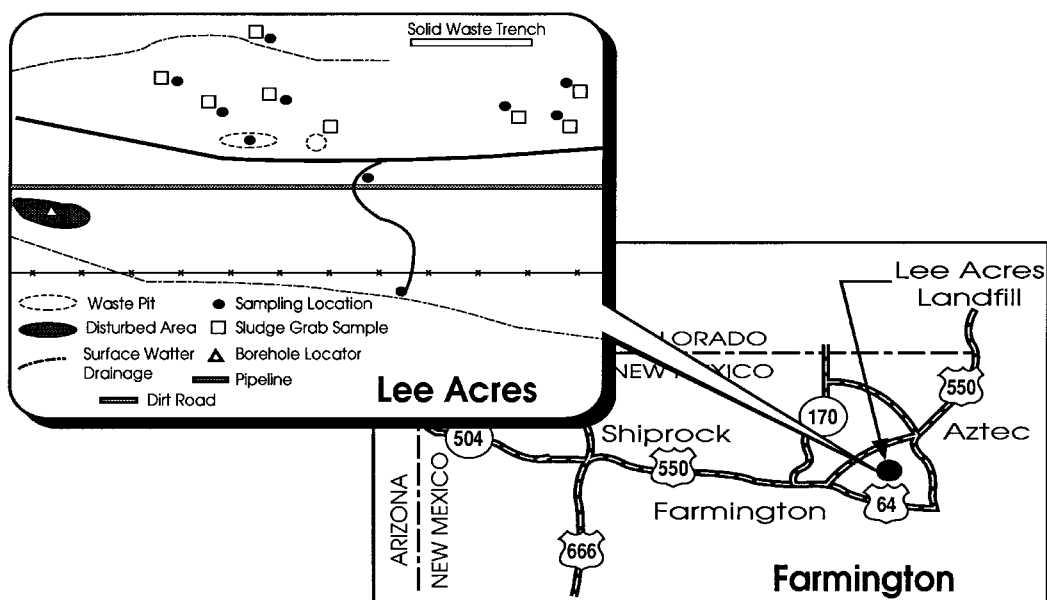
VOLUME: ! Undetermined

Site Assessment and Ranking

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Site HRS Score: 37.01
Proposed Date: 6/24/88
Final Date: 8/90
NPL Update: No. 7

Site Map and Diagram



The Remediation Process

Site History:

- ! In May 1962, San Juan County began to operate an unrestricted, 20-acre landfill for solid waste disposal.
- ! In 1978, liquid wastes from all sources were accepted and placed into 3 unlined surface lagoons.
- ! In 1980, an additional 40-acres were leased by the County.
- ! In 1985, toxic vapors, primarily hydrogen sulfide, caused 15 people to become ill. The Governor ordered the National Guard to secure site perimeter. San Juan County filled in the lagoons and fenced the site.
- ! In 1985, the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Division (NMEID) hired contractor to treat the lagoon contents to prevent further release of gases.
- ! In 1986, ground water, contaminated with benzene, was noted in the Lee Acres housing area south of the landfill. BLM authorized an alternate water supply and completed hookups in 1987.
- ! The scope of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study/Environmental Impact Statement (RI/FS/EIS) project as presented in BLM's work plan has been revised.
- ! EPA issued a General Notice Letter to Giant Refinery and San Juan County on May 2, 1991. On December 27, 1993, an additional 371 General Notice Letters were distributed.
- ! EPA issued a Special Notice Letter to DOI/BLM to draft Federal Facility Agreement on August 8, 1991. Negotiations were unsuccessful.
- ! Technical Memorandum of Understanding between EPA, NMED and BLM was signed in April 1994.
- ! Revised Remedial Investigation Report was completed and approved by EPA and NMED in April 1995.
- ! Revised Feasibility Study was approved by EPA and NMED in April 1996.
- ! Proposed Plan was approved by EPA and NMED on September 16, 1996.
- ! Discussion began on the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) in September 1994. Agreed to postpone FFA discussions. Discussion on FFA resumed in December 1996. Subsequent meetings, telephone or in person have been and will be conducted to agree on the FFA. A draft FFA was proposed in November 1997. DOI has requested that DOJ advise on the terms of the FFA.
- ! The Secretary, Department of Interior, must approve all decision documents, i.e. RI/FS, Proposed Plan, Federal Facility Agreement, and an Access Agreement with Giant Refinery. The Secretary seems reluctant to sign these documents.

Other Environmental Risks:

- ! The ground water and solid waste sludge are contaminated with minor concentrations of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), primarily dichloroethylene and benzene. High concentrations of manganese, the major pollutant, are also present. VOCs, other than Benzene, have been found in a residential well, but below drinking water standards.
- ! A release of hydrocarbon constituents, benzene, etc, has been found in the Lee Acres Subdivision. Free phase products, gasoline and diesel, is present in the Alluvial Aquifer and is being remediated by Giant Refinery.

Record of Decision:

! A Record of Decision is being finalized and is expected to be signed by the 3rd Quarter 2000.

No Record of Decision has been signed

Community Involvement

- ! Outreach Activities: BLM responsibility
- ! Community Relations Plan: 5/89
- ! RI Activities: Local officials briefed 9/88; BLM fact sheet 10/88; BLM public meeting 11/88; BLM fact sheet 1/89; BLM fact sheet and meeting 2/90; update 4/91, 6/94, 1/96.
- ! The Proposed Plan was distributed in July 1996. No citizens attended the meeting on the Proposed Plan.
- ! Citizens on site mailing list: 63
- ! Constituency Interest: Predominately concerned with impacts to race track and the San Juan River.
- ! Site Repository: Farmington Public Library, 100 West Broadway St., Farmington, NM 87401

Technical Assistance Grant

- ! Availability Notice: 3/89
- ! Letter of Intent: None
- ! Grant Award: N/A
- ! Current Status: Federal Facility

Contacts

- ! **Remedial Project Manager (EPA):** Petra Sanchez, 214/665-6686, Mail Sta. 6SF-LT
- ! **State Contact:** Chris Holmes, NMED (505) 827-2922
- ! **Community Involvement Coord. (EPA):** Nancy Stonebarger, 214/665-6619, Mail Sta. 6SF-PO
- ! **Attorney (EPA):** Mike Barra, 214/665-2143, Mail Sta. 6SF-DL
- ! **State Coordinator (EPA):** Susan Jenkins, 214/665-6578, Mail Sta. 6SF-LN
- ! **Prime Contractor:** N/A

Cost Recovery

- ! PRPs Identified: Department of Interior/Bureau of Land Management, and San Juan County.
- ! Viable PRP: BLM and possibly Giant Refinery and San Juan County.
- ! Other possible PRPs may come from examination of recent 104(e) Letters.

Present Status and Issues

! Fencing of the site and treatment of the lagoons, as well as the other activities on the Lee Acres Landfill site, have reduced the potential for exposure to contaminants while the site awaits further cleanup activities.

! BLM prepared a Revised Remedial Investigation Report (RRI) that was approved by EPA and NMED in April 1995.

! A draft Feasibility Study was received in June 1995. It was approved in April 1996.

! In the Fall of 1996, several geoprobe holes were drilled in the expected "hot spots" in the lagoons to define the area of contamination. The "hot spots" did not exist.

! An issue of "National Interest" may result if EPA and the Department of Interior (DOI) agree on language for the Federal Facility Agreement that can be used on other DOI/EPA sites.

! BLM and the Department of Energy signed an agreement to allow the Sandia Laboratory (DOE) to place a pilot "Low Permeability (Capillary Barrier) Cap" over a 1-acre portion of the landfill. It is an innovative technology that, if successful, can be used in all arid environments. This cap involves easier installation, less initial cost, and lower maintenance cost than a regular landfill cap. The pilot study began in August 1997 and was completed by March 1999. Data from 4 quarters indicates the cap is performing better than expected even though 1998 has been an exceptionally "wet" year.

Ž In February 1998, EPA assisted in the presentation of the RI/FS, Proposed Plan, Record of Decision, and Federal Facility Agreement to the new Director, Bureau of Land Management, and key members from Department of Interior. As of this date, EPA is waiting for the above documents to be signed.

! Discussions on developing a Federal Facility Agreement that both EPA and BLM can sign have resumed and preliminary discussion project a draft document developed by the 1st quarter of 2001.

Benefits

! Since the ROD has not been signed, actual cleanup levels have not been established but they will conform to State and Federal levels and designed to protect health and the environment in the Lee Acres Superfund Site and its environs.

! Proposed remedy is Natural Attenuation with monitoring for ground water. For the landfill proper, the proposed remedy is capping of the west 20-acres with the Capillary Barrier and ground water monitoring of landfill's eastern 40-acres.

Ž The pilot landfill cover has been in place for 31-months and no signs of infiltration have occurred and is meeting its intended goals.